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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/684,469	10/15/2003	Hitoshi Saito	SON-2836	8872

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WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER
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RENNER, CRAIG A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/11/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/684,469	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SAITO, HITOSHI	
	<b>Examiner</b> Craig A. Renner	<b>Art Unit</b> 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) in view of Suzuki (JP 07-029279) and Suganuma et al. (JP 08-255396).

Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) teaches a recording media drive apparatus (Fig. 1, for instance) for use with recording media (1), comprising a body (includes 10 and 40, for instance); a front panel (50), covering the front of the body (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) and having an insertion/removal opening (51) for inserting and removing the recording media to and from the body and having a button insertion hole (54); a slider (60) having a button support piece (includes 66e, for instance) projecting forwards from the slider (as shown in Fig. 11C, for instance), the slider provided within the body (as shown in Fig. 14, for instance), for inducing an eject motion for ejecting the recording media installed within the body from the insertion/removal opening as a result of pushing from the front (paragraphs [0036] and [0135], for instance); and an eject button (67) connected to the button support piece (as shown in Fig. 18, for instance)

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and projecting forwards from the front panel through the button insertion hole (as shown in Fig. 15, for instance) and operable to move with the slider (paragraph [0018], for instance), wherein the front panel is supported in a detachable manner as a result of front panel engagement with the body (as shown in Fig. 9, for instance), the front panel engagement is achieved by moving the front panel towards the body (as shown in Fig. 2, for instance); the button support piece includes a flat main piece (includes 66e, for instance) and a flat front piece (66a) extending perpendicularly to the flat main piece (as shown in Fig. 11C, for instance), the flat main piece having an engaging projection (66b) projecting therefrom and a pair of opposed engaging edges (as shown in Fig. 11C, for instance), the eject button has a coupling part (67b) and a button part (67a) integrally connected to the coupling part in a stepped-down manner (as shown in Fig. 17B, for instance), the coupling part having a flat upper surface part (as shown in Fig. 17B, for instance) with an engaging hole (67c) formed therein and a pair of opposed side surface parts (includes each 67f, for instance) with each side surface part formed with forwardly extending, opposing engaging grooves (each 67f), and the button insertion hole of the front panel slidably receives the button part of the eject button (as shown in Figs. 2 and 15, for instance) and respective ones of the engaging grooves of the coupling part of the eject button slidably receive respective ones of the engaging edges of the flat main piece (paragraph [0187], for instance) and the upper surface part of the coupling part resiliently moves to slide over the engaging projection on the main piece of the button support piece until the engaging projection of the button support piece matably engages the engaging hole of the coupling part (as shown in Fig. 18, for

instance) [as per claim 1]; wherein the front panel engagement is achieved by mutual engagement of a front panel engaging hole (13, for instance) provided at one of the front panel and the body (i.e., provided at the body) and a front panel engaging projection (56a, for instance) provided at the remaining one of the front panel and the body (i.e., provided at the front panel) [as per claim 2]; and wherein the button part of the eject button has a rearward wall disposed adjacent the coupling part (adjacent 66a, as shown in Fig. 18, for instance), and, when the engaging projection of the button support piece matably engages the engaging hole of the coupling part, the front piece of the button support piece and the rearward wall of the button part facially oppose each other (as shown in Fig. 18, for instance) [as per claim 5]. Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106), however, remains silent as to the eject button being "releasable connected" as per claims 1, 2 and 5; "a force to move said front panel in a direction away from said body acts in a direction releasing said front panel engagement" as per claims 1, 2 and 5; and "a front panel inclined surface is formed at said front panel engaging projection or at an edge of an opening of said front panel engaging hole so as to cause said front panel engaging projection or said front panel engaging hole to move in a direction away from said front panel engaging hole or said front panel engaging projection as a result of applying force to cause said front panel to move in a direction away from said body" as per claim 2.

Suzuki (JP 07-029279) teaches an eject button being releasable connected (lines 3-4 in the "CONSTITUTION", for instance) in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of enabling ejection button replacement. Suganuma et al. (JP 08-255396) teaches a

force to move a front panel (21) in a direction away from a body (8) acts in a direction releasing front panel engagement (paragraph [0033], for instance), and a front panel inclined surface (as shown in FIG. 6, for instance) is formed at a front panel engaging projection (32-2) or at an edge of an opening of a front panel engaging hole (31) (as shown in FIG. 6, for instance, i.e., the front panel engaging projection) so as to cause the front panel engaging projection or the front panel engaging hole to move in a direction away from the front panel engaging hole or the front panel engaging projection as a result of applying force to cause the front panel to move in a direction away from the body (paragraph [0033], for instance) in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of enabling front panel replacement. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had the eject button of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) be releasable connected as taught by Suzuki (JP 07-029279), to have had a force to move the front panel of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) in a direction away from the body act in a direction releasing the front panel engagement as taught by Suganuma et al. (JP 08-255396), and a front panel inclined surface be formed at the front panel engaging projection of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) or at an edge of an opening of the front panel engaging hole of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) so as to cause the front panel engaging projection or the front panel engaging hole to move in a direction away from the front panel engaging hole or the front panel engaging projection as a result of applying force to cause the front panel to move in a direction away from the body as taught by Suganuma et al. (JP 08-255396). The rationale is as follows:

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had the eject button of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) be releasable connected as taught by Suzuki (JP 07-029279) since such enables ejection button replacement.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had a force to move the front panel of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) in a direction away from the body act in a direction releasing the front panel engagement as taught by Suganuma et al. (JP 08-255396), and a front panel inclined surface be formed at the front panel engaging projection of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) or at an edge of an opening of the front panel engaging hole of Kohyama et al. (US 2002/0114106) so as to cause the front panel engaging projection or the front panel engaging hole to move in a direction away from the front panel engaging hole or the front panel engaging projection as a result of applying force to cause the front panel to move in a direction away from the body as taught by Suganuma et al. (JP 08-255396) since such enables front panel replacement.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

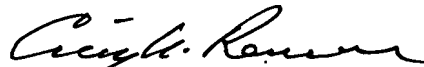
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig A. Renner whose telephone number is (571) 272-7580. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Craig A. Renner  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2627

CAR